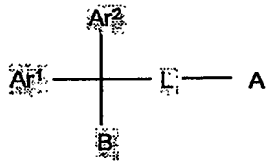
CLAIMS

1. A diaryl methyl derivative of Formula I



(I)

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof, wherein,

Ar^1 and Ar^2, independently of one another, represent an aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic monocyclic group, which aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic monocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro;

L is absent (i.e. represents a single bond) or represents a linker selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, -S-, $-S-CH_2-$, $-S-CH_2CH_2-$, $-S-CH(CH_3)-$, $-S-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-S-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, -NH-, $-NH-CH_2-$, $-NH-CH_2CH_2-$, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-$, $-NH-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$ and $-NH-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$; and

A and B, independently of one another, represent

-CN; -COOR', -CONR'R", -C(=NOR')R" or -C(=NOR')NR"R"', wherein R', R" and R"', independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl;

pyridinyl, phenyl, $-SO_2$-phenyl or $-O-SO_2$-phenyl, which phenyl group may optionally be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro; or

A represents -CN; -COOR', -CONR'R", -C(=NOR')R" or -C(=NOR')NR"R"', wherein R', R" and R"', independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl; pyridinyl, $-SO_2$-phenyl or $-O-SO_2$-phenyl, which phenyl group may optionally be substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro; and

B represents -CN, -COOR' or -CONR'R", wherein R' and R", independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl; a phenyl group, which phenyl group is optionally substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and/or nitro; or a pyridinyl group, which pyridinyl group is optionally substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and/or nitro.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein

L represents a linker selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, -S-, $-S-CH_2-$ and $-S-CH(CH_3)-$.

3. The compound of either one of claims 1-2, wherein

A and B, independently of one another, represent

-CN; -COOR', -CONR'R", -C(=NOR')R" or -C(=NOR')NR"R"', wherein R', R" and R"', independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl;

pyridinyl, phenyl, $-SO_2$-phenyl or $-O-SO_2$-phenyl, which phenyl group may optionally be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro.

4. The compound of either one of claims 1-2, wherein

A represents -CN; -COOR', -CONR'R", -C(=NOR')R" or -C(=NOR')NR"R"', wherein R', R" and R"', independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl; pyridinyl, $-SO_2$-phenyl or $-O-SO_2$-phenyl, which phenyl group may optionally be substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro; and

B represents -CN, -COOR' or -CONR'R", wherein R' and R", independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl; a phenyl group, which phenyl group is optionally substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and/or nitro; or a pyridinyl group, which pyridinyl group is optionally substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and/or nitro.

5. The compound of claim 4, wherein

A represents -COOH, $-COOCH_3$, $-COOCH_2CH_3$, $-CONH_2$, $-C(=NOH)NH_2$, pyridinyl or $-O-SO_2$-phenyl, which phenyl group is substituted with alkyl or halo, haloalkyl, cyano or nitro; and

B represents $-CONH_2$, -CN, or a phenyl group substituted with fluoro.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein

A represents -COOH, $-COOCH_3$, $-COOCH_2CH_3$, $-CONH_2$, $-C(=NOH)NH_2$; and

B represents $-CONH_2$, -CN.

7. The compound of claim 5, wherein

A represents pyridin-2-yl, pyridin-3-yl, pyridin-4-yl or $-O-SO_2$-phenyl, which phenyl group is substituted with methyl or ethyl; and

B represents -CN.

8. The compound of any one of claims 1-7, wherein

Ar^1 and Ar^2, independently of one another, represent

a phenyl group, which phenyl group is substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro; or

a pyridinyl group, which pyridinyl group is optionally substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro.

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein

both of Ar^1 and Ar^2 represent a phenyl group, which phenyl groups, independently of one another, are substituted one or two times with halo, haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro; or

both of Ar^1 and Ar^2 represent a pyridinyl group, which pyridinyl groups, independently of one another, are optionally substituted one or two times with halo, haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro.

10. The compound of claim 9, wherein

both of Ar^1 and Ar^2 represent a halo-substituted phenyl group.

11. The compound of any one of claims 8-10, wherein

L represents $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, -S-, $-S-CH_2-$ or $-S-CH(CH_3)-$.

12. The compound of any one of claims 8-10, wherein

A represents -COOH, $-COOCH_3$, $-COOCH_2CH_3$, $-CONH_2$, $-C(=NOH)NH_2$; and

B represents $-CONH_2$, -CN.

13. The compound of claim 10, which is

2,2-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-succinamide;

3-Cyano-3,3-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-propionic acid;

p-Toluensulfonic acid 2-cyano-2,2-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl ester;

Ethyl 4-cyano-4,4-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl) butyrate; or

2-[(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-methanesulfanyl]-*N*-hydroxy acetamidine;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof.

14. The compound of claim 9, wherein both of Ar^1 and Ar^2 represent a phenyl group, which phenyl groups, independently of one another, are substituted one or two times with halo, haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro.

15. The compound of claim 14, wherein

L represents $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, -S-, $-S-CH_2-$ or $-S-CH(CH_3)-$.

16. The compound of either one of claims 14-15, wherein

A represents pyridinyl, in particular pyridin-2-yl, pyridin-3-yl or pyridin-4-yl; and

B represents $-CONH_2$, -CN.

17. The compound of claim 14, which is

2-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-2-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-pyridin-2-yl-propionitrile;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof.

18. The compound of claim 9, wherein both of Ar^1 and Ar^2 represent a pyridinyl, in particular a pyridin-2-yl, a pyridin-3-yl or a pyridin-4-yl group.

19. The compound of claim 18, wherein

L represents $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, -S-, $-S-CH_2-$ or $-S-CH(CH_3)-$.

20. The compound of either one of claims 18-19, wherein

A represents -COOH, $-COOCH_3$, $-COOCH_2CH_3$, $-CONH_2$, $-C(=NOH)NH_2$; and

B represents $-CONH_2$, -CN.

21. The compound of claim 18, which is

Methyl 4-cyano-4,4-bis-(pyridin-2-yl) butyrate; or

Methyl 4-cyano-2-methyl-4,4-bis-(pyridin-2-yl) butyrate;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1-21, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof.

23. Use of a compound of any one of claims 1-21, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to modulation of SK_{Ca} and/or IK_{Ca} channels.

24. The use according to claim 23, which disease, disorder or condition relates to reduction or inhibition of undesired immune-regulatory actions, including graft vs. host syndrome, transplant rejection, or transplant rejection.

25. The use according to claim 23, for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition, which further comprises a pharmaceutically effective amount of a conventional immune suppressing agent.

26. The use according to claim 25, wherein the conventional immune-suppressing agent is Amphotericin, Busulphan, Co-trimoxazole, Chlorambucil, colony stimulating factors, corticosteroids, Cyclophosphamide, Fluconazole, folinic acid, Ganciclovir, antilymphocyte immunoglobulins, normal immunoglobulins, Methotrexate, Methylprednisolone, Octreotide, Oxpentifylline, Tacrolimus (FK506), Thalidomide, Zolimomabaritox, or the calcineurin inhibitors (protein phosphatase 2B inhibitors), in particular Cyclosporin.

27. A method for of treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition responsive to modulation of SK_{Ca} and/or IK_{Ca} channels, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1-21.